

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 29, 2002, examined claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kadowaki et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,351,282.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled and replaced with new claim 7. Claim 5 has been cancelled and replaced by new claim 8. New claims 7 and 8 are deemed to particularly point out and distinctly claim applicant's invention and to define subject matter clearly patentable over the applied reference. Claims 2-4 and 6 have been amended to properly depend from the respective new claims. Claims 9 and 10, dependent on claim 8, have been added.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the substantive rejection of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing claim cancellations, additions, and amendments and the following argument for allowance.

New independent claim 7 recites X-ray apparatus having a carriage having at least one pair of independently driven driving wheels and motor means (12) for actuating the driving wheels. The carriage has a driving handle with side bars (2) rotatably coupled to the carriage along an axis of rotation (3) and a cross bar (1) coupled to and extending between the side bars in an articulated manner to allow turning movement of the respective side bars to different extents and in different directions about the axis. A means moves with each turning movement of each respective side bar (2), the movement of said means being measured by measuring means (10) and converted into an electric signal by which operation of the motor means (12) of the driving wheels is controlled to steer the X-ray apparatus.

Figures 1 and 2 of the Kadowaki et al reference show a mobile X-ray apparatus having a pair of right and left control bars (12R, 12L). Each of the control bars is mounted, at an inner end, on the X-ray apparatus to move in a horizontal plane independently of the other to steer the X-ray apparatus. (Column 4, lines 29-32)

The subject matter of new claim 7 is not anticipated by the Kadowaki et al reference for the following reasons. Claim 7 calls for a cross bar (1) coupled to and extending between the side bars (2) so as to be movable with the side bars. The Kadowaki et al reference does not teach or suggest such a cross bar. In fact, the Kadowaki et al reference explicitly teaches against such a cross bar, stating that a cross bar provides an "unnatural feeling of control". (Col. 1 Lines 44-55).

In the present invention, as claimed by claim 7, the side bars are connected to a cross bar to provide a more user friendly steering of the mobile X-ray apparatus. The cross bar makes it possible to steer the carriage by one hand and in confined spaces, such as a door way. Also, the articulated connection of the side bars to the cross bar diminishes the possibility of incorrect movements of the carriage. Such steering is not possible when using side bars arranged free from each other, as taught by Kadowaki et al.

There is clearly no cross bar in the embodiment of the invention shown in Figs. 6-9 of the Kadowaki et al patent.

Independent claim 7 is thus deemed to define patentable subject matter over the Kadowaki et al reference and to be allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under §102(b) be withdrawn and independent claim 7 be allowed.

Claims 2-3 are amended to depend from claim 7 and are believed allowable for the above stated reasons, as well as for the detailed subject matter contained therein.

Claim 4 is amended to depend from claim 7 and is also believed allowable for the above stated reasons, as well as for the detailed subject matter contained therein.

According to claim 4, the X-ray apparatus comprises release means (7-9) by which the motor means (12) can be released from the driving coupling with the driving wheels (17), allowing the wheels to rotate freely and thus permitting manual movement of the X-ray apparatus carriage. The release means is an important feature in exceptional situations, for example, when power is cut off from the apparatus or batteries have run down and it is necessary to push or pull the apparatus. Kadowaki et al only teach a carriage that stands still when the control bars are placed in neutral positions. (Col. 2 Lines 63-66) There no teaching or suggestion in Kadowaki et al of a release means for allowing manual movement of the carriage.

New independent claim 8 is specifically directed to the subject matter of claim 4. It calls for the carriage to have a release means (7-9) by which the motor means can be released from a driving coupling with the driving wheels, allowing the wheels (17) to rotate freely and thus promote manual movement of the carriage and re-engaged to cause braking of the carriage, both as carried out by movement of the driving handle.

As noted above, Kadowaki et al do not teach or suggest a release means by which the motor means can be released from a driving coupling with the driving wheels for

manual movement of the carriage. Kadowaki et al also do not teach or suggest means for carrying out braking of the carriage when the carriage is being manually moved.

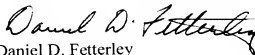
Independent claim 8 thus defines patentable subject matter and is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under §102(b) be withdrawn and newly added claim 8 be passed to allowance.

Dependent claims 9 and 10 have been added to further define the apparatus claim 8 and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP

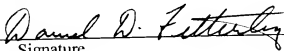


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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. Department of Commerce

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Rev. 10/95 Patent and Trademark Office

Application Number	10/018,987
Filing Date	05/01/2002
First Named Inventor	Jarmo Luusua
Group Art Unit	2882
Examiner Name	Irakli Kiknadze
Attorney Docket Number	2542-00034

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of pages in this Submission

8

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
 - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☒ Amendment
 - ☐ After final
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application
 - ☐ Response to Missing Parts Under 37.152 or 1.53

- ☐ Assignment Papers (for an Application)
- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition Checklist and Accompanying Petition
- ☐ To Convert a Provisional Application
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Date 2/28/2003



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1. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:

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Deposit Account Name Andrus, Scales, Starke & Sawall, LLP

☒ Charge any additional fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 ☐ Charge the Issue Fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing Of the Notice of Allowance, 37 CFR 1.311(b)

3. ☐ Payment Enclosed: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION (fees effective 10/01/97)

1. Filing Fee

Large Entity Small Entity
Fee Fee Fee Fee
Code (\$) Code (\$)

101	690	201	345	Utility filing fee	_____
106	310	206	155	Design filing fee	_____
107	480	207	240	Plant filing fee	_____
108	690	208	345	Reissue filing fee	_____
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee	_____

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) 0

2. Claims Extra Fee from below Fee Paid

Total claims -- 20 = X =

Independent -- 3 = X =

Claims

Multiple Dependent X =

Claims

Large Entity Small Entity Fee

Fee Fee Fee Fee Description

Code (\$) Code (\$)

103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20	_____
102	78	202	39	Independent claims in excess of 3	_____
104	270	204	135	Multiple dependent claim	_____
109	82	209	41	Reissue independent claims over original patent	_____
110	22	210	11	Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent	_____

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 0

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number	10/018,987
Filing Date	05/01/2002
First Named Inventor	Jarmo Luusua
Group Art Unit	2882
Examiner Name	Irakli Kiknadze
Attorney Docket Number	2542-00034

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

2. Additional Fees

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Fee Fee Fee

Code (\$) Code (\$)

105	130	205	65	Surcharge-late filing fee or oath	_____
127	50	227	25	Surcharge-late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	_____
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	_____
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	_____
112	920*	112	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	_____
113	1,840*	113	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	_____
115	110	215	55	Extension for response within first month	_____
116	400	216	200	Extension for response within second month	_____
117	950	217	475	Extension for response within third month	_____
118	1,510	218	755	Extension for response within fourth month	_____
128	2,060	228	1,030	Extension for response within fifth month	_____
119	310	219	155	Notice of appeal	_____
120	310	220	155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	_____
121	270	221	135	Request for oral hearing	_____
138	1,510	138	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	_____
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive unavowedly abandoned application	_____
141	1,320	241	660	Petition to revive unintentionally abandoned application	_____
142	1,320	242	660	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	_____
143	450	243	225	Design issue fee	_____
144	670	244	335	Plant issue fee	_____
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	_____
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisionally abandoned applications	_____
126	240	126	240	Submission of Information Disclosure Statement	_____
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	_____
146	790	246	395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	_____
149	790	249	395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	_____
Other fee (specify)				_____	
Other fee (specify)				_____	

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 0

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBMITTED BY

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